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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Richard R. Hertzog et al

Appln. No. (Cont. of 08/601,879)

Group Art Unit:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner:

For: Decomposition of Cumene Hydroperoxide

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
AND NOTIFICATION OF INTERFERENCE WITH REISSUE NO. 08/545,092

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-6, without prejudice, substituting in lieu thereof, the following new slate of claims 7-43:

--7. An improved method for the decomposition of cumene hydroperoxide by acidic catalyst to phenol and acetone wherein the improvement comprises decomposing cumene hydroperoxide in a continuous manner in a decomposition reactor using sulfuric acid as the acidic catalyst in the presence of cumene and excess acetone whereby the reactor composition includes 10 to 100 percent excess acetone relative to the amount of acetone produced during the reaction whereby the rate of decomposition of cumene hydroperoxide is reduced and the reaction is more controllable and more selective.

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